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Newsletter

Number 31

4 November 2011



Website www.matarau.school.nz

Phone / Fax (09) 433 5823 **Email** – admin@matarau.school.nz

Thanks

.. To those people who supported our Calf Club Day - and to Alison Faithfull and Steve Martin for co-ordinating this event.

.. To this week's headlice inspection team

.. To Ngaire and Courtney Bradley who generously funded the new bus shelter located on Miro Road.

.. To those who are supporting our athletics team at Poroti this coming Tuesday.

People of the week

.. Those children who entered calves, lambs and pets in last week's Calf Club and especially to our ribbon winners.

.. Those children representing our school at the Central Calf Club Day at Barge Park this coming Thursday. **GOOD LUCK!**

Charter Survey Forms

The board is especially grateful to those parents who returned charter response forms. The process of weighing ideas in relation to each other (as in this survey) is a method promoted by Edward Debono to really tease out what matters. Differences which may have seemed like "splitting hairs" to you, actually can be significant when responses are aggregated. We are grateful to those who persevered in doing this - you have provided us with some important and useful information.

The board will now reflect carefully on charter feedback and make adjustments to our charter where appropriate. Even though the formal period of charter consultation is over, we remain interested in feedback on how we can better tailor the school to the needs of your children .. so .. just tap a board member on the shoulder or drop by to see Kevin. The survey findings are available from the office on request.

RESPECT VIRTUE

Please take the time ..

.. to read over the support material sent home last week

.. to set some respect goals with your children

.. and to let us know of any special successes

Important change to term dates

Please note that the final day of the 2011 school year will be Friday 16 December (and not 20 December as formerly advised).

Prize Giving will now be held on Tuesday 13 December (starting 6:30 PM).

School Cups

It is a matter of some urgency that school cups are returned to school for re-engraving. Please do not polish these - we will arrange this. **Thanks!**

Meningitis vaccinations

.. are scheduled for Monday morning. If you have any last minute questions please phone Phillipa Butturini 0800223358 (option 1).

Parents are also advised that vaccinations are available at the temporary DHB Community Immunisation Clinic - Shop 4, Strand Arcade, Central Whangarei. No appointment necessary.

Maori Liaison Person

Efforts made earlier in the year to find a person for the Maori Liaison Role were unsuccessful. If you have suggestions on how we might improve our services to Maori families please contact Kevin (or any Board member) with your thoughts.

Art Scholarships

Portfolios are due 28 November 3:30 PM. If you would like to enter your child, and you have not received the background information, please contact their teacher or the school office. Please note that entry criteria have been amended this year to allow 2 items from a previous year and one from an out of school activity (with some conditions). We hope to see a high level of interest in these scholarships with potential to win a trophy at prizegiving and \$125 for each of the two winning students. Mrs Witte has kindly offered to assist with portfolios and to give advice to students.



Class Placements 2012

Teachers will soon be giving consideration to class placements for 2012. The final decisions must ultimately be made by the school but we can throw parent request / suggestions **of a general nature** into the mix (no guarantees). If there is something you would like us to consider please give Kevin a call or flick him an email on principal@matarau.school.nz

Where a parental request is not met, that parent will be advised the reasons why in due course.

Poroti Athletics – 8 November

Please note that all children Years 4 to 8 will be attending and that regular classes will not take place on this day (except for Year 1 to 3 children). Most children will travel by bus, leaving school shortly after 8:00 AM returning by 3:00 PM. Please ensure that children bring suitable clothing (including Matarau T-Shirts), sunhats, sunblock, lunch, plenty to drink and spending money at your discretion.



We have been advised that parents are welcome to park at the adjoining sports complex but not on the field which is being upgraded at present.

Spelling Bee .. Underway soon. Parents might like to encourage their children's involvement.

School Contributions

Those who opted for term payment of school contributions and activity fees will receive a request for their final instalment next week. Please forward payment as soon as possible and don't hesitate to contact us with any questions or to discuss alternative payment arrangements. A small number of families also owe for activity or technology fees from earlier in the year and we are keen to receive these as soon as possible please.

Term dates 2012 for those interested ..

Term 1 .. 2 February to 5 April

Term 2 .. 23 April to 29 June

Term 3 .. 16 July to 28 September
around 20.12.12)

Term 4 .. 15 October to ... to be determined (Some time

International Schools English and Maths Competitions

The school has now received the results of both the English and Mathematics Competitions. Parents can expect their child's result sheet within the next week. Your child's results can also be accessed at <http://www.eaa.unsw.edu.au> using the unique pin number on your child's result sheet (if you would like their pin number in advance of receipt of the hard copy results please give Kevin a call). Participation certificates

will be given out at an assembly within the next month or so with remaining certificates held over for school prizegiving.

When analysing results you are encouraged to ..

.. remember that these tests are designed to be difficult and tend to be sat by children who are already achieving in the upper quartiles in maths. So, an average performance in these tests (or perhaps even a below average performance) might be well above average in any test normed for the general school population.

.. only (and this is approximate) 2 or 3 percent of NZ students sit these exams and so they are not suitable for drawing comparisons with the general school population.

.. these tests are most useful as an adjunct to regular programmes and as extension for children needing this.

.. trends are more important than one off results. If your child has lifted or dipped from one test to another be cautious about the conclusions you draw from this. Trends and patterns over longer periods of time are much more useful and might form part of a useful discussion with your child and/or their teacher.

International Student Homestays

Our international student programme has become an essential source of income for our school. It is also an opportunity for our children to learn about other cultures and to make lasting friendships with children from other lands. It appears that there may be some interest in short stay placements next year (likely one month but possibly extending to three months). Income from this is usually around \$180 per week per child. If interested in hosting a child please give Kevin a call to further discuss. Most families who have hosted international students in the past have testified to the value of the experience and we are hoping for some support.

Lunchtime Track and Field Competition

Great to see the level of participation in these events. Please continue to ensure children bring appropriate clothing with them. If you are able to help out please give Kevin a call .. you can specify your day or your preferred track or field event(s).

Sunhats

School sunhats compulsory in terms 1 and 4. Please make sure your child has their Matarau Sunhat before leaving for school each day .. and their high vis vest.

Home Garden Programme - UPDATE!

We met this week to discuss garden problems and share tips. We have an enthusiastic group of gardeners who seem to have got off to a great start. Please ensure they spend a little time here and there on their diaries and REMEMBER .. If running late with plantings (or if wanting certified organic seedlings for your garden).. locally grown in Ruatangata to biogro standards. Phone Rebecca Agnew on 4351030. Rebecca will have a seedling stall here at school each Friday of November 3:00 - 3:20 PM by the upper carpark. Any questions re home gardens can be addressed to Kevin.

Headlice

This week's inspection indicated low to moderate levels of infestation. If you received advice of infestation please ensure appropriate action is taken before your child returns to school on Monday. Parents are encouraged to check their child(ren's) hair weekly.

Garden Club Co-ordinator

Our present Garden Club Co-ordinator is moving overseas. If you, or anyone you know, would be interested in helping out next year please contact the school office. This may suit a grandparent, neighbour who has an interest in gardening.

Child Safety Handbook

In the coming week all Year 8's will be receiving a Child Safety Handbook. This is for both parents and children. The book addresses issues of safety in the home, on the street, outdoors, at school, personal safety and drug awareness. Its aim is to help parents, teachers and caregivers understand issues surrounding the safety of children and to help children to learn how to make their own environment safe and accident-free.

Scholastic Book Club .. Issue 7 closes 11th November.

Fundraising Chocolate

Thank you to those who have returned their money or unsold chocolates. If you have not done so, please return on Monday.

Found - A gold bracelet. If you are missing one please contact the office.

Matarau Tennis Club - Opening Day, Sunday 13 November, 12.30pm - 2.00pm.

Community Notices

For Rent – 3 bdrm house, Pipiwai Rd, newly decorated, modern kitchen and new bathroom (heated floor), fully insulated \$310 pw Phone 021828526 or email merieljd@xtra.co.nz

For Sale - Half sides of beef(2) professionally butchered and packaged to your requirements. Approx 145kg per half, \$900 total cost (\$300 deposit to secure order).

Contact for more details Michele Blagrove or Stephen Duckmanton after hours 09 4335 735 or Michele 027 6100 303 or Stephen @ Kamo Police 09 4355766.

Reliable Baby-Sitter Available - Previous pupil Holly Duckmanton (refer Mr T or Mr D if details required) is available to babysit in the Matarau/Ruatangata/Kamo area. Year 12 student with own transport and experience, very reliable. Rate \$15/hour first 3 hours, then \$10 per hour. Contact details phone home 09 4335 735.

Daylong SPF30+ Sunscreen (water resistant for 80 minutes), 8 hours sun-protection from a single application. It really does work! Perfect for School (and work and summer holidays!) Available at Unichem Kamo Dispensary (Bush Rd) & Unichem Kamo. 15% discount to Matarau School families. Just ask in-store. Offer Valid until Feb 20

Worm Juice for Sale – Great for natural vege & plant growing. 3 litre milk bottle \$2.50. Contact Neroli 433 8185.

Paihia Oceans Kids Swim - Saturday 10 December, 10.30am, Paihia Beach. To register or for more info visit www.oceankids.co.nz.

Tides Out Bream Bay Fun Run and Walk – Sun 6 November, 9.00am. Any enquiries to Susan McRae on 094321029 or Marilyn Cox on 094320209 or www.breambayfunrun.com or www.sportnorthland.co.nz.

Whangarei A & P Ag Day

Entries are now open for the A&P Summer Show on Saturday 3rd December 2011. All pet calf, lamb or goat **entries received before 14 November receive a free ticket** to the Show! Gate admission for the Show is \$5.00 per person, with under 5 year olds free. Visit www.summershow.co.nz for more information.

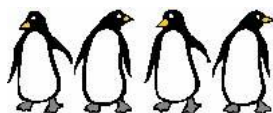
Final Thought

"As a cure for worrying, work is better than whiskey." Thomas Edison, American Inventor, 1845-1931

Regards

Kevin Trewhella
PRINCIPAL

Our Sponsors support your
children, please support them



KAMO AMATEUR SWIMMING CLUB

Registration Day – Friday 4th November 2011 4.30pm - Kamo High School Pool, Wilkinson Ave, Kamo
New members welcome.

Stroke improvement classes - Monday & Friday afternoons from 4.30pm, start Monday 7th November.

Club nights – Wednesdays, start 30th November 2011 at 6.00pm, great atmosphere, timed races.

Swimmers must be reasonably confident in water and be able to swim 10-15m unaided.

For further enquiries contact Chris 433 5099 or Helen 433 5823 or Sharon 027 631 9361